

MOT Town Folks,

Thanks for taking the time to talk with about Parks in our area. Our meetings were an enormous help to developing an inventory of what exists in our area. The parks foundation built by the MOT municipalities is a wonderful foundation to build upon.

I would like to give you a quick update on the NCC Parks Task Force, as I think it is important to make sure that whatever is done for parks down here builds on the municipal network of parks that all of you (and Smyrna), have put in place.

I am attaching a presentation that was given on parks in the MOT area. I believe that after reviewing the two outdated NCC parks planning document and presenting the status, we now have a strong agreement of task force members on the immediate need for NCC to develop park resources in our area. This is also consistent with the stated position of County Executive Meyer, so at least positions our area well.

The significant actions taken at last night's meeting were the establishment of two subcommittees. One will look at a detailed spatial analysis for level of service to determine the "hot spots" of facility needs based on factors like population density (current and projected), existing resources, etc. This will be done with the technical assistance from our State Parks staff (Bob Ehemann, Manager of Park Resources for Delaware State Parks). The second subcommittee will consider the specific recreational facilities that need to be put in the park(s) or added to existing parks. Both committees are being coordinated by the two of us on the committee that are MOT residents, Aaron Blythe and I. I think this is helpful as we are both very familiar with the MOT region. Aaron is copied on this message should you need his email.

As we develop draft products, I expect we will need some input from the Towns about what we may have missed, impacts on local municipal facilities, and the extent to which any outstanding parks needs might be met in localized areas by enhancements to Town parks in the event that NCC is willing to enter into any partnerships (perhaps provide some resources), etc. I have been informally talking with people in the town parks, and know that these parks are already serving the needs of some of the residents in the unincorporated areas of MOT. I do think that building on what we have, and filling gaps with new county resources and facilities, is likely to be the most cost effective and sustainable way to meet the regional parks and recreation needs (but we need to work through a lot of details and strengthen our intergovernmental relationships).

If you or anyone in your communities want more information on the Task Force, NCC has put up a website with information and documents for our activities. The web address is:

<http://nccde.org/1384/Parks-Task-Force>

Also, I put together a Google Map tool to inventory the resources in the MOT region that was shared on several social media groups. The residents that responded to facebook and other posts were very helpful in identifying some of the missed facilities and resources (although it is still a draft tool). This tool is available to the public if they find the link. Here is the shortened link:

<http://www.udel.edu/003991>

Should you think it would be helpful, I am more than happy to attend any of your town meetings (formal or informal) to provide updates and discuss any needs or concerns. We look forward to working with you as we develop a plan for NCC involvement in parks in our area.

Finally, the Task Force will need to develop an public engagement effort. If you have any suggestions on how best to engage members in your communities, or the broader MOT area, please let me know. I expect we will be looking to have a public workshop once we have some draft materials. We will also share information on social media, share materials with the traditional press, and I am happy to attend and present materials to Town meetings, neighborhood groups or others that may be interested.

Thank you for all your help.

Dave Carter  
Townsend, DE